The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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NON-PARTISAN PROBE OF PARTY PLATFORMS

Washington, July 19.—The executive committee of the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee is examining the various political platforms that have been adopted the past month. Statements by presidential nominees on the occasion of their formal acceptance of their nomination will also be given consideration by the committee. The candidates will undoubtedly take advantage of the official publication of their nomination to present their views and place their interpretations on various declarations of their party.

The executive committee will then make its report to the A. F. of L. executive council, and that body will submit its comparisons and the records of the various candidates to the organized labor movement.

Reports to A. F. of L. headquarters indicate that there is greater non-partisan activity among the organized workers than ever before.

Workers are not overlooking the importance of the congressional elections. The entire membership of the house and one-third of the senate will be voted on. The present congress will expire March 4, when the congress to be elected this fall will assume office. Privileges and benefits from the present congress and strong effort will be made to have the next congress amenable to the needs of those who oppose social legislation or changes in the transportation act, and who favor low surtaxes, free immigration, the sales tax, the Mellon plan and other stand-pat proposals.

$1,000,000 ANNUALLY OUT OF CONVICT LABOR

Oklahoma City, July 19.—The Reliance manufacturing company, which uses Oklahoma convicts on its shirt contract, makes a profit of $1,000,000 a year.

This information is given wide circulation by citizens in this state who oppose the leasing of convicts. The Reliance is an Illinois corporation. It is capitalized at $5,000,000, and in marketing $7,000,000 of common stock a syndicate of bankers said:

"The Reliance manufacturing company is the largest maker of working men's shirts in the country, doing a business of between ten and twelve million dollars a year.

"It operates 17 prison factories, getting nothing rent free, and all power, heat and light either free or at nominal rates. It gets its labor from state prisons and from counties at rates varying from a fifth to a half of the cost in free plants.

"It started in the shirt business about 22 years ago with a capital of $25,000. Net profits for the first 11 months of 1922 were $1,400,000."

Organized labor and sympathizers are opposing a contract this company has secured from the state to work on public affairs. The state is paid 60 cents a dozen, or 5 cents apiece, for making shirts.

ITALIAN CENSORSHIP SHOWS FASCISTI POWER

Washington, July 19.—The natural sequence of autocracy is shown in the muzzling of the Italian press by the Fascisti government. Censorship follows the abduction and murder of a socialist deputy who opposed Mussolini.

The decree lays special stress on "the growing tension between the Fascisti and the subversive elements, whose activities show a decided increase."

As true autocrats, the cabinet assumes the right to tell newspapers what to print and dictate to people what they shall read. Disregarding past experience, the Fascisti makes it unlawful for newspapers to print anything that may hinder the government, injure the credit of the government, or disturb public order.

If a newspaper violates the decree the editor shall be warned, and if repeated within the same year the newspaper shall be suspended.

SINCLAIR LOSES

Washington, July 19.—The indictment charging Harry P. Sinclair, lessee of Teapot Dome, with contempt of the United States senate when he refused to answer questions of a senate committee has been upheld by Justice Hoehling of the District of Columbia supreme court.

"The question of grave importance, since, without the power to compel testimony," said the court, "Congress, in the need of information in the discharge of its legislative function, will be largely limited by such information as may be gleaned from the witness voluntarily." The court said the power of congress to go to excesses can be restrained "only by its good faith."

Sinclair was defended by some of the best lawyers in the country. The issue is of vital import to the defendant and his associates.

FOOD COSTS GO UP

Washington, July 19.—Reports to the bureau of labor statistics from 24 cities show the following increases in food costs from May 15 to June 15: Columbus, Denver, Fall River, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Seattle, 2 per cent; Baltimore, Boston, Bridgeport, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Manchester, New Orleans, Richmond, Rochester, Scranton, Philadelphia, 1 per cent; Butte, New Haven, Portland, Me., Portland, Ore., St. Louis, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

BARBERS MAKE GAINS

New York, July 19.—Organized barbers in new localities and in New York have improved work conditions as the result of strikes. The unions have increased their membership.

PAINTERS ARE WINNING

Yonkers, N. Y., July 19.—Organized painters in this vicinity are winning their strike for better work conditions.

HORSESHOERS BUILDING UP

St. Louis, Mo., July 19.—Horseshoers in this city are conducting an effective organizing campaign.

POSTAL WAGE OPPONENT PREPARED WAGE VETO?

Washington, July 19.—The presidential veto of the postal workers' wage increase was prepared by Joseph Stewart, executive secretary of the postmaster general, according to the Union Postal Clerk, official magazine of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

Postmaster General New opposed the wage increase, and on every occasion publicly expressed this opposition.

"The insistence by the president that the postal service not incur any financial liabilities without a corresponding increase in revenues is a new departure in policy—a departure in sharp conflict with the republican platform expression and frequent pronouncements by the postmaster general," said Editor Flaherty of the Union Postal Clerk.

"In his veto message President Coolidge, speaking of the generous postal wage standard, said:

"It was found that in all cases of employes of a similar character the average salaries paid were much lower than those paid in the postal service.

"Where is there an employment similar to postal employment, Mr. President? If there was any outlet for the skilled, experienced postal workers—any place for them to now turn and dispose of their knowledge and experience, how many would be left under the beneficient administration of your postmaster general? Very few, indeed."

FREE ASSEMBLAGE DENIED IN PENNSY

Waynesboro, Pa., July 19.—A proposed mass meeting of girls employed at the Pioneer cloak shop at this place was called off because of the intimidating methods of public officials. The Ladies' Garment Workers' union has been urging the girls to organize as they are paid a wage rate that is more than 70 per cent below the Baltimore scale.

A. F. of L. Organizer Eichelberger assisted in arranging the meeting, but not a girl attended. Policemen and firemen picketed the hall. Motor policemen passed out warnings that if the building as did the owner of the factory, his manager and several company officials, the chief of police had previously urged women interested in the meeting to cease activities, the trade unionists have protested to Governor Pinchot.

CLEAN MILK LOWERS CHILDS' DEATH RATE

New York, July 19.—Nathan Straus, originator of pasteurized milk depots, urges the extension of this system to smaller towns. He shows that with the establishment of 297 depots here in 1893 the city the death rate among children under five years has dropped from 142.3 per thousand in 1895, to 24.7 per thousand last year. Mr. Straus established his first milk depot in 1893, and by 1920 there were 297 in 36 cities, and their number is increasing. In connection with the depots prenatal work and the care of children, including proper feeding, are taught to mothers.

BAR HAWAIIAN JAPANESE

Washington, July 19.—Secretary of Labor Davis has ruled that Japanese residents of the Hawaiian Islands can not enter the United States under the new Oriental exclusion law. Large numbers of Japanese are in Hawaii and claim they are entitled to admittance to the mainland of the United States because of their residence in the territory of Hawaii.

METAL MEN'S STRIKE ENDS

Dayton, Ohio, July 19.—Sheet metal workers and roofers have declared their wage strike off and returned to work pending arbitration of their demands. The solidarity of the unionists forced the employers to change a no-conference attitude.

HUGE TELEPHONE PROFITS

New York, July 19.—American telephone and telegraph company profits for the first six months of this year are estimated at $45,500,121, as compared with $40,579,417 for the same period last year.

Building Promoters Juggle Costs; 'Water' Values Cause High Rents

Washington, July 19.—"It is a national necessity that the public understands financial methods of building promoters," declared Wm. J. Spencer, secretary-treasurer building trades department, A. F. of L., in discussing the claim of a New York realtor that land is responsible for high costs of housing.

The wages labor receives for erecting the average building is nothing as compared with what the promoter filches from the transaction, said Mr. Spencer, and then explained how money is borrowed by the promoter, who then cuts the cost of the building, puts the difference and shows his plans as proof that the building represents the original cost proposal and justifies high rents.

Often the price of the building is increased by placing three and four mortgages on it, which compels an additional rent increase to guarantee interest charges.

"To illustrate this practice," said Secretary Spencer, "take a $200,000 development. The promoter submits his plans to a bank that loans him the money to build. Unknown to the bank, the promoter substitutes, wherever possible, tile for granite, hardwood for marble, Georgia pine for hardwood, galvanized iron for copper, cheap paint and plastering, the lowest grade of plumbing the inspector will permit, and a reduction of one elevator scheme.

"These changes often cut the cost in two and the promoter pockets the difference while he markets the structure on the basis of original cost proposals. Instead of rents being lowered because of the cheap building, the rents are even increased as the mortgages send the property values skyward.

"This policy of financial highbinders is widely practiced by men who advertise their efficiency service to the community' and who loudly shout against what they term 'high' wages for men engaged in an occupation that is both seasonal and dangerous," said Secretary Spencer.

EDUCATION IS LABOR'S NEED

By FANNIA M. COHN
Vice President, Workers' Education Bureau of America

The world is tired of the events of the last generation and especially of the calamity that has befallen mankind the last ten years. Tens of millions of human beings are crushed by our present-day industrial and social organization. How many millions are heard from many parts of the globe from men, women and children who can not any longer endure the burden imposed upon them by our present industrial civilization. The human mind is at work in search of a solution of its problems, conscious of the fact that man is the creator and the supporter of the social institutions and that when these institutions outlive themselves it is within his power to change them to meet new conditions.

Social forces that mold our economic and political institutions are always in play. It is only necessary to realize that there are great social forces in process now that tend to change our form of society. The only question arises in the minds of many which group is destined to direct these social forces.

Millions of men and women of the working class and of the professional groups look forward to the workers' education movement as the agency destined to bring about this great historic change, and it is therefore of the essential thing to the accomplishment of this change is that the group that is to play the most important part be prepared morally and intellectually for this historic mission. And the only conscious thought in the minds of many is: "Are the workers, through their unions, prepared to assume this great historic mission?" The answer to the movement for workers' education within the trade unions of our country.

The movement for workers' education is based on the conception that education was always the greatest influence in our lives. Many realize that the object of our educational system, at present, is to adjust the individual to the environment with a view to perpetuating our social structure as it is, with all its destructive influences.

But the object of workers' education is rather to adjust the environment to the needs of modern life.

The aim of the workers' educational movement is to encourage the worker more and now to prepare for the great task of transforming our social structure on a more just basis through manifold activities within his own trade union, in the economic, co-operative, political, research and educational fields. Those who are active in the workers' educational movement are convinced that through such activity the labor movement will develop the necessary leadership from within its own ranks.

PARTY ALL "LEADERS," WITH NO RANK AND FILE

Seattle, July 19.—The National Farmer-Labor party was "a case of leaders, with no rank and file to back them up," according to J. G. Brown, who recently resigned as secretary of the party.

This is one of the political movements that has appeared and disappeared within the past several months. It admitted the communists, and they promptly got control of the party's politicians. The communists even captured the name, and were known for a short time as the federated farmer-labor party. Then the communists moved to St. Paul, where they strangled the recent farmer-labor conference.

With the refusal of Senator La Follette to be associated with the communists, they nominated a ticket which has since been ditched, and Foster and Gitlow, avowed red-shirt boys, substituted.

The communists have a clear record of wrecking everything they touch.

EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Chicago, July 19.—A 7 per cent drop in factory employment is reported in this state during the past three months. It is estimated that the unemployed total 80,000.

CLARKE RE-ELECTED

Atlantic City, N. J., July 19.—William D. Clarke was re-elected president of the American Flint Glass Workers' union at their annual convention in this city. Secretary-treasurer Shipman was also re-elected. The next convention will be held in Toledo.

BAKERS SECURE AGREEMENT

Evansville, Ind., July 19.—The Bakers' union has secured a one-year renewal of their agreement with employers.

CANNIBAL LEGISLATORS REJECT CHILD LABOR BAN

By an almost unanimous vote the Georgia legislature rejected the federal child labor amendment on the ground that this would "destroy the home," and because "Georgia is fully capable of taking care of its own children."

In that state a child of 14 years is permitted to work as long as an adult, unlimited hours. While a 60-hour day is specified, extra time may be worked in the event of an "accident" to machinery.

If a child is an orphan or aids in the support of a widowed mother, such child may work at the age of 12, under conditions above specified.

In view of this backward law, the cannibal legislators fear a federal act would harm Georgia's children.

LAWMAKERS DON'T OBEY

Philadelphia, July 19.—A committee of the American Bar association criticised members of congress because they do not accept recommendations of the association.

"Certain politicians are not only refusing to observe the recommendations of their bar associations, but use their influence to prevent a report by the judiciary committee," the report said.

GOLD FLOW ALARMS

New York, July 19.—Officials of the federal reserve bank system are alarmed at the flow of gold into this country from Europe through marketing transactions. With an increasing gold reserve the nation's credit has been increased several times and this increases speculation, with inflated prices, it is stated.

CONFER ON TRAIN CONTROL

Boston, July 19.—A conference of train control experts has been called for July 28 at which time reports to exchange ideas and make uniform action possible. The interstate commerce commission has ordered train control installed.

RECORD RAIL EARNINGS

New York, July 19.—The Queen & Crescent railroad earned $117.43 a share on its common stock last year. The net profit was $3,652,682, as reported to the interstate commerce commission. This tremendous increase in earnings was accomplished notwithstanding the fact that freight was handled for less per ton mile than in the previous year.

Baltimore, July 19.—Last year's net income of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was $23,523,885, as compared with $75,372 the previous year. The net speed for this railroad.

New York, July 19.—The New Orleans & Northeastern railway reports a net income last year of $1,015,195. The previous year's profits totaled $66,344.

The net income of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie railroad trebled last year over 1922. The profit was $12,170,196, as compared with $4,332,610 in 1923.

INJUNCTION JUDGES USURP POWER; SENATOR URGES NEW VIEWPOINT

Philadelphia, July 19.—In discussing the labor injunction before a joint meeting of the national and state bar associations in this city, United States Senator Pepper gave broad intimation that the labor injunction judge usurps his power.

In referring to the loss of popular confidence the courts suffer as a result of the labor injunction, Senator Pepper asked this significant question:

"To maintain such confidence must we not confine the courts to the sphere in which the creators of our constitutional system intended them to live and move and have their being?"

The senator declared that opposition to the labor injunction can develop a revolutionary sentiment in this country. He said that confidence in our judicial system is "pretty nearly essential to national safety," and our "dragging the courts into industrial disputes tends to lessen popular confidence and respect.

The remedy for this situation is not legislation, but public opinion that organized labor should be a leading factor in developing, according to Senator Pepper. He gave this hint to trade unionists on the value of agitation and their power to create public opinion:

"Wherever organized labor has failed to create an overwhelming sentiment for the closed shop, it can not, in the absence of such sentiment, successfully do the things which otherwise public opinion would approve."

"As long as the enlightened sense of the community fails to recognize the difference between the self-protection of an industrial class and mere wanton conspiracy to injure property and business," Senator Pepper, "just so long judges who have power in their hands are likely to use it when urged thereto by the owners of the property or the business or by the official representative of the government of which the judges are themselves a part. The problem is not primarily the problem of changing the point of view of federal judges, but of determining what the community attitude toward organized labor is going to be.

"In the last analysis the attitude of the community will be determined by the workers themselves."

Senator Pepper deplored continuous efforts to compel United States courts "to take up the shock of our industrial warfare." He referred to the recent decision by the United States supreme court in the leather workers' case wherein six justices to three held that picketing to prevent the manufacture of goods which, if manufactured, would have been shipped in interstate commerce, was not a conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce within the anti-trust act.

"Any other decision," said Senator Pepper, "would have subjected to federal jurisdiction every strike in a single factory the product of which was destined to swell the volume of interstate commerce.

"Under such a system of government as ours the maintenance of well-nigh universal confidence in the judiciary is pretty nearly essential to national safety. Is it not worth our while to place elsewhere than upon our federal judges the burden of solving for us our legislative and executive problems?

"To maintain such confidence must we not confine the courts to the sphere in which the creators of our constitutional system intended them to live and move and have their being?"

MINERS' WAGE CUTS WON'T LOWER PRICES

Oklahoma City, July 19.—Coal owners at Wilburton have broken their contract with the United Mine Workers. The mine manager acknowledges he does not know what the new wage scale will bring him more business.

Vice President McElroy of the state federation of labor shows that a wage cut of 15 cents here will relieve depressed condition of the coal business in Oklahoma. "The high price of coal is brought about by the leaves the mines," said Mr. McElroy. "The miner who digs the coal at $1.25 a ton gets only seven cents. Distribution of a ton for what he buys, and I am informed that the people in the western mines are getting nothing and put it on the railroad car without cost to the coal owner this would afford but scant relief to the consumer.

"In January of this year some of the coal owners brought pressure on the corporation commission to explain why farmers had to pay $14.50 for coal. The state has since reduced the 1923 the cost of putting coal on the car averaged $2.75 a ton. Thus if wages went to zero coal costs would be affected but little.

"In Muskogee last winter unionmined coal and non-union mined coal were placed on the market and there was practically no difference in price although the union miner received $7.50 a day while the non-union miner was paid as low as $2 a day.

"Who got the profit represented by the difference in wages? The public did not get it. And neither would it get it now if the miners accepted a wage reduction."

ACCIDENTS INCREASE

Albany, N. Y., July 19.—Industrial accidents caused 160 deaths during the month of June, according to a statement made by the state department of labor. This is an increase of 30 deaths over the number reported in May.

"Of special interest," said Industrial Commissioner Shientag, "is the deaths of two employes who were electrocuted while they were working on wires that were taking measurements came in contact with high voltage live wires."

OPPOSE DEATH PENALTY

Atlanta, Ga., July 19.—A senate committee has recommended a bill that would substitute life imprisonment for the death penalty.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Schenectady, N. Y., July 19.—The annual convention of the New York state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, August 26.

Unionist Makes Dire Prophecy; Opposes "Junior High" Schools

Chicago, July 19.—There is a possibility that the children of the masses may be barred from high schools without another decade, according to Victor Olander, secretary of the Illinois state federation of labor, who is leading a fight against the "junior high" school.

"These schools do not connect with the upper high schools. So-called "counselors" are employed to select the pupils to be given the benefit of courses which lead to the high school, and those who are to be encouraged to take courses which will definitely complete their school life at the end of the ninth grade, when the average child is 15 years of age.

That the higher school authorities report that, by grouping the children according to so-called ability tests, they have developed a very efficient scheme whereby the "superior" groups are encouraged to go on into the regular high school, while the "lower" groups are advised to take work in household and industrial courses, which do not fit them for any high school activity.

The "junior high'," said Secretary Olander, "is simply an educational stepchild arrangement which enables the school authorities to sidetrack the children away from the main line of education in such a manner that they are prevented from reaching the high school. That is the purpose of the system, and although in some cities the switch has not yet been turned, it is ready to be used for sidetracking purposes whenever the public temper permits.

Under this scheme, when the average child reaches the age of 12 years and is about to enter the seventh grade, the parents must decide then and there what the future of that child is to be, as the school authorities must then decide as to whether or not it is to be sent into the high school term three years later, at the age of 15, when the so-called 'junior high' term will have been completed.

"In other words, the 12-year-old child must make a choice between a course which leads to the high school and one that does not. Thus the question of whether a boy or a girl is to have the benefit of a high school education is to be largely determined by the economic status of the child's family three years before it is eligible for the high school.

"The European method of class distinction carried to the extreme seeks to make the decision some years in advance. Thus the schools of Europe have based the European society static and to maintain clear and distinct class divisions. That is what the effect of the so-called 'junior high' scheme will be in America if it is permitted to operate as intended by its promoters.

"The intensity of the housing problem immediately after the war caused local school boards to cut down the time of their thought and energies toward the solution of that one problem, and as a result the purpose of the many communities to overlook educational features and educational values.

"The junior high school is another of those unfortunate new development or it will find the door of the American public high school closed against the children of the common people in less than another decade."

LOCKED-OUT BAKERS START CO-OP. SHOPS

Butte, Mont., July 19.—Locked-out bakers have surprised the citizens' alliance by starting co-operative bake shops, and are meeting with a full capacity on the three-shift system.

The bakers asked for a wage increase and 4 a.m. as the opening hour for work. Prospects were bright for an early settlement until the citizens' alliance, known as the employing industries, took charge of the employers' affairs. The usual antagonisms were aroused and the entire trade union movement has lined up behind the strikers, who are developing an unusual capacity to operate their own plants.

BIG PROFIT IN THREAD

New York, July 19.—The American thread company reports a profit last year of $1,540,544, after interest, depreciation, taxes and inventory adjustments have been met. After dividends were paid and the balance of the funds were juggled around by expert bookkeepers, a "paper" deficit of $17,483 is shown.

SHOP MEN LOSE SUIT; COMPANY 'UNION' WINS

Philadelphia, July 19.—The federal circuit court of appeals has dismissed equity suits of several shop men against the Pennsylvania railroad. Shop men of the Pennsylvania system had backed these suits that were filed as test cases. Similar suits were filed by the railroad clerks.

The cases involved $15,000,000 back pay. This amount is the difference between a new award by the railroad labor board and rates the railroad paid under an agreement with its hand-picked company union.

The workers did not ask that the railroad labor board's decision be enforced. They charged that there was a conspiracy to deprive them of civil and statutory rights, as defined in the transportation act. The act provides that railroad employes may select their representatives, but the Pennsylvania railroad ignored this section and organized a company "union" that it recognizes in setting wages. The court could see no conspiracy in this defiance of law.

"FRAME-UP" VICTIM RELEASED FROM PRISON

Harrisburg, Pa., July 19.—Jacob Dolla, active in the nation-wide steel strike, was released from the 5 to 10 year penitentiary sentence by the state board of pardons. Dolla was influential among the foreign workers. He was found guilty of dynamiting the porch of a strikebreakers' house on the testimony of a man who was later released. The evidence was so palpably of the stool pigeon kind that organized labor demanded that the wrong be righted and he be returned to his destitute family.

RECORD OIL PROFITS

Los Angeles, July 19.—The Union Oil company of California reports net profit of $6,200,000 for the last six months. This is after charges for depreciation, depletion, new drilling, and other costs have been met. The year's profits are expected to exceed the 1920 record of $12,038,000.

ANTIS MAKE NO PROGRESS

San Francisco, July 19.—The so-called "American plan" and other anti-union movements in the building industry have been defeated in this state, according to President McDonald of the state building trades council. The unionists have recorded victories in a score of cities.

Packing Baron's Pension Fades As Plant Is Absorbed by Rival

Chicago, July 19.—Tricked into accepting low wages because of the Morris pension plan, only to lose his pittance when the Morris packing plant merged with Armour, R. H. Kunz was a pitiful figure as he told his story to Circuit Judge Rynht.

Kunz testified in the suit of a score of former Morris employes who are suing to have their pensions continued. They say that the company fund was organized 15 years ago and each employe was compelled to contribute 2 per cent of their earnings to the fund.

Kunz told the court that while employes on pension had been received offers from other concerns at higher wages, but in both instances, he said, "I turned down the offers after confer with the manager of my own company."

He told me that the life pension benefits more than made up the difference in salary and that I owed it to my family to guarantee them the comforts of life when I was too old to work. He said the Morris family was behind the pension program and that there were millions to back up the disbursements."

Other pensioners told heart-breaking stories of this double-dealing corporation that held workers to their low-wage tasks on the plea that their pensions and a life of ease in their old age would make up the difference. Now these old men find that their pension has disappeared and the Morris company is absorbed by a rival.

The Morris family tendered a gift of $500,000 to the pension fund, but several million dollars is needed to meet the fund's obligations. The pensioners have been offered the money they contributed, plus 4 per cent interest. A return of their money, however, does not recompense them for the higher wages they could have offered by other concerns, and which were rejected by the pensioners who believed the golden promises of the Morris company.

The suit is a reminder of trade union opposition to the company-controlled benefactions of every sort. "Like every plan that has been designed to control the workers and stamp out the spirit of self action that glows in every human breast, it has gone astray," says the Union Advocate, published by the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men.

"While the newspapers, college industrialists and sentimentalists were parading the virtues of the Morris employes' pension plan, hard-headed trade unionists, who have been through many an industrial struggle, proclaimed it nothing but a promise," the Union Leader said. "It was the hay suspended by the old darkey in front of the horse's head to keep him going—always in sight but never in reach."

SOCIETY PAYS HEAVY COST FOR DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

New York, July 19.—"Defective children are the offspring of overworked mothers. It is one of the accepted doctrines of modern science that mothers should not be allowed to engage in economic life and at the same time bear children," said Dr. Frederick Peterson, New York department of public welfare, in an interview with Edward F. Smith and published in the New York World.

"The stress and speed of modern life is known to cause a great deal of nervous disorder among women," Mr. Coler said. "Neurasthenia means deranged glands, and women are built up from this complaint are known to bear unsound and often defective children. Our clinics show many defectives are born among poor mothers and especially to newly arrived foreign mothers who are either upset because of changed environment or are forced to go out and earn their livelihood while they are bearing children.

"A great many criminals of the defective or mentally deficient class come into the world in this way, and we are now forced to believe that this disturbance in the mothers is the cause of the large numbers of criminals among first generation foreigners.

"The day nursery situation as it exists in some of the foreign quarters gives an index to what is going on. These nurseries, run either by charitable contributors or as a matter of private enterprise, are numerous. Mothers leave children in these places and go to work while they are bringing forth children into being, thus sapping the energies and giving the coming generation a very poor heritage.

Commissioner Coler said one need not be an alarmist to realize the growing menace of the feeble-minded. He called attention to the army intelligence tests applied during the war, which showed the large number of young men with the mentality of 13-year-old children.

"What these tests were probably not too carefully conducted and are possibly as inaccurate as has been said," said the commissioner, "the deviation from fact is surely not great enough to give us any reassurance. Even if one-half of the tests were to reduce the percentage of mental deficients to one-fifth, we would still have one man in every 10 under the standard of adolescent mental development. If one child in every 10 showed the more obvious kind of defects which occur in the bodily structure, the public would not long be blind to the gravity of the situation."